was increased from 18 to 26 to clear the arrears of pending cases speedily;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there are still ten vacancies of the Judges in Supreme Court; and

(c) if so, what are the hurdles in filling these vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) The sanctioned strength of the Supreme Court was increased from 18 Judges to 26 Judges having regard to the institution and pendency of cases.

As on 9.11.87, there were 10 vacancies in the Supreme Court.

Selection of Judges involves deliberation in consultation with the Chief Justice of India; this does take time as the effort is to appoint the most suitable persons as Judges.

Resource mobilisation

682. DR. H. P. SHARMA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the severe drought situation and the resultant fall in resource mobilisation, Government propose to prune the annual target; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if not, the strategy proposed to be employed in covering the resources gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) A study on the impact of drought on the economy of the country is being undertaken in the Planning Commission. A view on resources gap and Plan targets for the Annual Plan 1987-88 and Seventh Five Year Plan will be taken after results of the study are available.

12.00 NOON

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Indira Vikas Patra (Third Amendment) Rules, 1987

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of section 12 of the Government Savings Certificates Act, 1959, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs) Notification GSR No. 739(E), dated the 31st August, 1987, publishing the Indira Vikas Patra (Third Amendment) Rules, 1987. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-4969/87].

Notifiration of the Ministry of External Affairs

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy (in English and Hindi of the Ministry of External Affairs Notification S.O. No. 768(E), dated the 12th August, 1987, publishing Corrigendum to Government Notification S.O. No. 429(E), dated the 18th July, 1986. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-4948/87]

Notifications of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions - Department of Personnel and Training

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES, AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (2) of section 3 of All India Services Act, 1951, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (Department of Personnel and Training):—